



Virginia Department of  
Emergency Management

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# DR-4512 (COVID-19) Public Assistance Program Houses of Worship Webinar

Presented by the VEST Finance and Recovery Sections

April 9 & 13, 2021

# Agenda:

- COVID-19 Disaster overview
- Public Assistance Grant Program
- Houses of Worship as PA Applicants  
PNP Eligibility Tree Discussion
- Application Process
- Contact/Assistance with Application Process



# Declaration Summary

- Incident Period: January 20, 2020 and continuing
- Declaration Date: April 2, 2020
- Statewide Public Assistance (100% federal funded)  
Cat B- Emergency Protective Measures
- Request Deadline: Open and Continuing, no deadline for application at this time



# FEMA Fact Sheet: *Coronavirus Pandemic: Eligible Emergency Protective Measures*

- Eligible emergency protective measures taken to respond to the COVID-19 emergency at the direction or guidance of public health officials may be reimbursed



# Roles and Responsibilities

Applicant	Recipient (VDEM)	FEMA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Creates/Maintains Organization Profile in Grants Portal (GP)</b></li><li>• <b>Attends Applicant Briefing</b></li><li>• <b>Submits Request for Public Assistance (RPA) in GP</b></li><li>• <b>Completes COVID-19 Streamlined Project Application and Uploads in GP</b></li><li>• <b>Provides supporting documentation</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Activates Organization Profiles in GP</b></li><li>• <b>Conducts Applicant Briefing(s)</b></li><li>• <b>Reviews RPA and makes recommendation</b></li><li>• <b>Administers Grant Awards</b></li><li>• <b>Grant management including reimbursement requests, scope of work changes, time extensions, and closeout</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Approve RPAs</b></li><li>• <b>Determine Eligibility</b></li><li>• <b>Issue Determination Memos</b></li></ul>



# FEMA Public Assistance Eligibility of Houses of Worship

Can HOW provide documentation to support the organization being an eligible applicant?

1. Houses of Worship are not required in Virginia to have the IRS exemption
2. If the organization is not required to obtain 501(c)(3) status or tax-exempt status under applicable state law, the organization must provide articles of association, bylaws, or other documents indicating that it is an organized entity, and a certification that it is compliant with Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3) and State law requirements.

Eligible HOWs do not need an MOU to seek direct reimbursement from FEMA for eligible work for which they have the legal responsibility to perform.

Eligible HOWs do not need to apply to SBA for Emergency Work. This provision of FEMA policy applies to Permanent Work.

NO

Organization does not meet the definition of a HOW and is not eligible for reimbursement.

YES

Does HOW own or operate a facility?

YES

NO

Did the HOW perform eligible work as defined by FEMA for COVID-19?

YES

NO

HOW did not perform eligible work and is not eligible for reimbursement.

Is HOW legally responsible for the emergency actions resulting in the need to seek reimbursement?

YES

NO

HOW is not legally responsible and is not eligible for reimbursement.

Did the HOW have at least \$3,300 in eligible costs?

YES

NO

HOW did not meet the minimum threshold and is not eligible for reimbursement.

HOW is eligible to apply for FEMA Public Assistance.

Eligible Houses of Worship (HOW) could seek reimbursement for PPE and enhanced disinfection between January 20, 2020 and September 15, 2020.

Under COVID-19 specific FEMA policy, a HOW may be able to apply directly with FEMA for PPE and disinfection after September 15, 2020 for work associated with a Community Vaccination Center. Since a HOW does not have the legal responsibility to establish and operate a CVC, therefore additional cost incurred would likely not be eligible for reimbursement.

In these cases, PA funding is provided to the legally responsible government entity, which would then pay the private non-profit for the provision of services under the formal agreement or contract.



# Potential Applicants

- Visit [grantee.fema.gov](https://grantee.fema.gov)
  - Create Applicant/Organizational Profile (if new applicant)
  - Submit Request for Public Assistance under the event (DR-4512)



# National Strategy Policy:

- Presidential Executive Order issued late last week regarding the [National Strategy for the COVID-19 response and pandemic preparedness](#).
- Focus on vaccination efforts, funding and resources.





# Summary of National Strategy:

- Fairly compensate providers, and states and local governments for the cost of administering vaccinations (page 10) - The federal government will fund vaccine supply and will greatly expand funding for vaccine administration by allowing state and local governments to reimburse vaccination administration expenses through the FEMA.
- Implement a national strategy to support safely reopening schools (page 17).
- Establish new, federally supported community vaccination centers across the country (Pages 41-42).
- Increase emergency funding to states and bolster FEMA response (pages 69-70).
- Provide funding for PPE and other critical supplies through FEMA disaster relief (page 85).
- Restore FEMA reimbursement for sanitizing public transit (Page 92).



# DR-4512-VA (COVID-19 Pandemic)

## Summary:

- Houses of Worship may be eligible for a Public Assistance (PA) grant for eligible emergency protective measures.
- VDEM can assist potential applicants in successfully formulating and submitting a Public Assistance project to expedite the progress from submission (applying for funding) to obligation (receiving funding).
- FEMA Grants Portal: [grantee.fema.gov](https://grantee.fema.gov)



# Assistance with Project Formulation?

## **IEM**. DISASTER RECOVERY CENTER OF EXCELLENCE



### OUTREACH

Reach out to potentially eligible applicants to inform them of the program and how to apply. A widespread email campaign directs further questions to the customer service number.



### TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE/ TROUBLESHOOTING

Answer questions, provide customer service information, technical assistance, and troubleshooting to applicants in response to calls or emails.

### 2 TOUCH-POINTS

Prompt responses 24/7/365  
Backed by defined, timebound metrics



**1-800-609-9214**

Calls fielded by a cascading tree of staff. Voicemails are captured via coordinating software, checked and responded to twice daily.



**VDEMCommunications@iem.com**

Same day responses to email queries

*More Eligible Applicants  
Aware of the Program*



*More Successful Navigation  
of the Application Process*



*More Eligible Claims Submitted*



*More Federal Funding Entering  
the Commonwealth of Virginia*



# Additional Resources:

- VDEM Coronavirus Website Resources:  
<https://www.vaemergency.gov/coronavirus/disaster-grants-and-loans/gov-ngo/>
- The webinar and slides will be posted here:

## ▼ Private-Non-Profit Guidance

Resource	File
PNP COVID-19 Eligibility Fact Sheet Final	<a href="#">PDF</a>
COVID-19 Private Nonprofit Organizations Fact Sheet	<a href="#">PDF</a>
PNP Eligibility Process Flow	<a href="#">PDF</a>
Cost Recovery Webinar Slides	<a href="#">PDF</a>
Webinar Playback Audio	<a href="#">Audio</a>

## ▼ House of Worship Guidance

Resource	File
Cost Recovery Webinar Slides	<a href="#">PDF</a>



# Questions?



Contact Information  
[Recovery@vdem.virginia.gov](mailto:Recovery@vdem.virginia.gov)

# THANK YOU!

